

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amend the specification by adding before the first line the sentence:

This is the national stage of PCT/JP03/011118 filed August 29, 2003, which claims benefit of PCT/JP02/010018, filed September 27, 2002.

At page 10, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 14-15 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 2 shows the nucleotide sequence, electropherogram, and analysis data in relation to gene polymorphism 1. The wild type nucleic acid and amino acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs: 21 and 22, respectively. The upper and lower mutant type nucleic acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs:24 and 25, respectively. The mutant type amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:23. The nucleic acid sequence corresponding to the electropherogram data (lowest sequence in the figure) is SEQ ID NO:25.

At page 10, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 16-17 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 3 shows the nucleotide sequence, electropherogram, and analysis data in relation to gene polymorphism 2. The wild type nucleic acid and amino acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs: 26 and 27, respectively. The upper and lower mutant type nucleic acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs:29 and 30, respectively. The mutant type amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:28. The nucleic acid sequence corresponding to the electropherogram data (lowest sequence in the figure) is SEQ ID NO:30.

At page 10, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 18-19 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 4 shows the nucleotide sequence, electropherogram, and analysis data in relation to gene polymorphism 3. The left and right wild type nucleic acid sequences are SEQ ID

NOs:31 and 32, respectively. The left and right wild type amino acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs:33 and 34, respectively. The upper and lower mutant type nucleic acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs:36 and 37, respectively. The mutant type amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:35. The nucleic acid sequence corresponding to the electropherogram data (lowest sequence in the figure) is SEQ ID NO:37.

At page 10, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 20-21 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 5 shows the nucleotide sequence, electropherogram, and analysis data in relation to gene polymorphism 4. The wild type nucleic acid and amino acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs: 38 and 39, respectively. The upper and lower mutant type nucleic acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs:41 and 42, respectively. The mutant type amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:40. The nucleic acid sequence corresponding to the electropherogram data (lowest sequence in the figure) is SEQ ID NO:42.

At page 10, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 25-26 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 7 shows the nucleotide sequence, electropherogram, and analysis data in relation to gene polymorphism 5. The amino acid sequence having “Arg” in the fourth position is SEQ ID NO:43, while the amino acid sequence with “Trp” is SEQ ID NO:44. The nucleic acid sequence having “C” in the twelfth position is SEQ ID NO:45, while the nucleic acid sequence with “T” is SEQ ID NO:46. The nucleic acid sequence corresponding to the electropherogram data (lowest sequence in the figure) is SEQ ID NO:47.

At page 11, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 1-2 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 8 shows the nucleotide sequence, electropherogram, and analysis data in relation to gene polymorphism 6. The amino acid sequence having “Met” in the sixth position is SEQ ID NO:48, while the amino acid sequence with “Thr” is SEQ ID NO:49. The nucleic acid sequence having “T” in the seventeenth position is SEQ ID NO:50, while the nucleic acid sequence with “C” is SEQ ID NO:51. The nucleic acid sequence corresponding to the electropherogram data (lowest sequence in the figure) is SEQ ID NO:52.

At page 11, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 3-4 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 9 shows the nucleotide sequence, electropherogram, and analysis data in relation to gene polymorphism 7. The amino acid sequence having “Gly” in the sixth position is SEQ ID NO:53, while the amino acid sequence with “Arg” is SEQ ID NO:54. The nucleic acid sequence having “G” in the sixteenth position is SEQ ID NO:55, while the nucleic acid sequence with “C” is SEQ ID NO:56. The nucleic acid sequence corresponding to the electropherogram data (lowest sequence in the figure) is SEQ ID NO:57.

At page 11, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 5-6 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 10 shows the nucleotide sequence, electropherogram, and analysis data in relation to gene polymorphism 8. The wild type nucleic acid and amino acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs: 58 and 59, respectively. The mutant type amino acid and nucleic acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs:60 and 61, respectively. The nucleic acid sequence corresponding to the electropherogram data (lowest sequence in the figure) is SEQ ID NO:61.

At page 11, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 10-11 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 12 shows the nucleotide sequence, electropherogram, and analysis data in relation to gene polymorphism 9. The wild type nucleic acid and amino acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs: 62 and 63, respectively. The mutant type amino acid and nucleic acid sequences are SEQ ID NOs:64 and 65, respectively. The nucleic acid sequence corresponding to the electropherogram data (lowest sequence in the figure) is SEQ ID NO:66.

At page 11, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 14-17 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 14 shows the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:67) of a region containing gene polymorphism 10 or 11, ~~and the nucleotide sequence of a region in the vicinity of the polymorphic region.~~

At page 11, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 18-20 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 15 shows the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:68) of a region containing gene polymorphism 12, ~~and the nucleotide sequence of a region in the vicinity of the polymorphic region.~~

At page 11, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 21-23 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 16 shows the nucleotide sequence (SEQ ID NO:69) of a region containing gene polymorphism 13, ~~and the nucleotide sequence of a region in the vicinity of the polymorphic region.~~

At page 17, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 10-20 with the following amended paragraph:

As described below, the gene polymorphisms 10 and 11 are in linkage disequilibrium ~~equilibrium~~ with each other in intron 1 of the IL-12•p40 subunit gene. Therefore, when the

present gene detection method is performed on intron 1, it is efficient to detect either of the gene polymorphisms 10 and 11. Similar to the case of the gene polymorphisms 10 and 11, the gene polymorphism 12 in intron 4 of the IL-12•p40 subunit gene is in linkage ~~disequilibrium equilibrium~~ with the gene polymorphism 13 in intron 6 thereof. Therefore, when the present gene detection method is performed on intron 4 or 6, it is efficient to detect either of the gene polymorphisms 12 and 13.

At page 40, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 19-22 with the following amended paragraph:

The analysis results of gene polymorphism 10 are the same as those of gene polymorphism 11, which indicates that these gene polymorphisms are in linkage ~~disequilibrium equilibrium~~ with each other.

At page 42, please replace the paragraph encompassing lines 12-15 with the following amended paragraph:

The analysis results of gene polymorphism 12 are the same as those of gene polymorphism 13, which indicates that these gene polymorphisms are in linkage ~~disequilibrium equilibrium~~ with each other.